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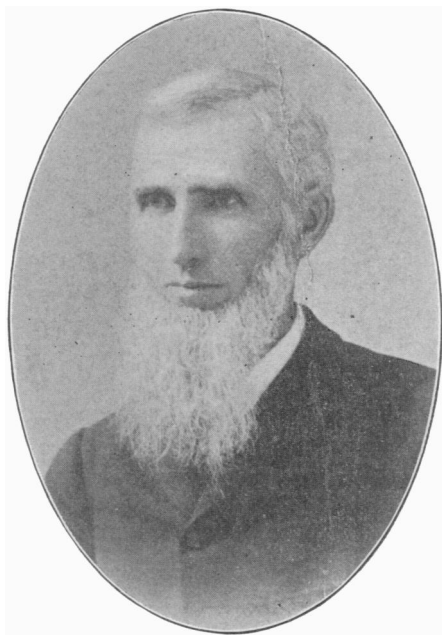
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Rev. James A. Bates

In the death of Rev. James Atwood Bates the American Fern Society has lost an ex-president and a charter member whose botanical experience goes back a long generation before the beginning of popular fern study in America. It is almost startling to realize that he began collecting plants in the days of Thoreau, while D. C. Eaton was a school boy, about the time of the

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birth of L. M. Underwood, and nearly twenty years before G. E. Davenport began the study of ferns.

He was born on May 2, 1832, in the old Congregationalist parsonage in Newton Center, Mass., where his father, Rev. James Bates, was pastor for twelve years. His mother, Emily Atwood Bates, was a sister of Harriet Newell, one of the first missionaries of the American Board to India. He prepared for college at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Mass., graduating from Amherst College in 1856, and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1860. On October 25, 1860, he married Sarah Adams Tobey and shortly thereafter sailed for Ceylon, where he remained three years as a missionary.

Compelled by ill health to give up missionary work, he returned to America and during the succeeding forty years held pastorates in Huntington, Mass., 1866; Belpre, Ohio, 1867; Brooklyn, Ohio, 1872; Lowell, Mass., 1874; Wolcott, Vt., 1877; Barton Landing (now Orleans), Vt., 1880; Williston, Vt., 1883; Randolph, Vt., 1890; South Royalston, Mass., 1898.

He was President of the American Fern Society during the year 1910. He was a charter member of the Vermont Botanical Club and as long as health permitted was a frequent and interested participant in the meetings of that society. He was not a voluminous writer, but his occasional contributions to the *Fern Bulletin*, *FERN JOURNAL*, *Bulletin of the Vermont Botanical Club* and other publications all reflect his characteristic mental keenness, youthful enthusiasm, and generous and kindly spirit.

For more than sixty years he employed the spare moments of a busy life in the study of nature, collecting not only plants but minerals, shells and curios from all parts of the world. Among the writer's most vivid recollections of boyhood days is that of sitting in a little Vermont church listening with rapt attention to his

stories of life in Ceylon which he illustrated with images, implements and natural objects collected during his stay in "heathen lands."

His death occurred on the third day of September after several months of failing health, in South Royalston, which had been his home for the past eighteen years. The photograph here reproduced was taken some twenty years ago.

E. J. WINSLOW.

Is *Pellaea glabella* Mett. a Distinct Species?¹

FERMEN L. PICKETT

In an earlier number of the JOURNAL (4: 97-100, Jy-S, 1914) the writer called attention to two forms of the Cliff Brake found growing together on the limestone cliffs of southern Indiana, both of which are locally called *Pellaea atropurpurea* (L.) Link, but which differ so widely that they seem certainly to be distinct varieties or even distinct species.

Through the kindness of Mr. C. A. Weatherby, specimens of both forms were on display at the Philadelphia meeting. Later the broad-leaf specimens were compared with authentic specimens of *P. atropurpurea* var. *Bushii* (collected at Monteer, Mo., by B. F. Bush, Oct. 24, 1901) and reported as identical with that variety. Mr. Weatherby stated that Mr. Bush evidently thought the variety *Bushii* the same as *P. glabella* in as much as his later labels bear the latter name.

In December, 1915, the writer received from Mr. F. C. Greene specimens of *P. glabella* collected Oct. 3, 1915, North Terrace, Kansas City, Mo., which are in every way identical with the Indiana specimens. Later examination of specimens in the Washington State College Herbarium has shown specimens of *P. glabella*

¹ Contribution from the Bot. Dept., Washington State College.